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The Law of Contracts, a Course of Lectures by John William Smith, Esq., with notes and an appendix by Jelinger C. Symons, Esq. Third American Edition, with additional notes and references to both English and American decisions, by William Henry Rawle, author of "a Treatise on Covenants for Title." Philadelphia: T. & J. W. Johnson, 1853, 487 pp.

Our friends, the Messrs. Johnson, have done wisely in publishing in a beautiful type and with very copious notes, this popular elementary work of Mr. Smith. Few elementary law books in modern times have met such universal professional approbation both at home and abroad.

This edition is greatly superior to any ever yet offered both in its mechanical execution and in its editorial detail. We think Mr. Rawle has happily adapted his notes to the text and to the general spirit of the body of the book. The law of Contracts is confessedly one of the most difficult to deal with in the profession, especially for students and young practitioners; and they will be glad to see Mr. Rawle's clear, exact and copious annotations, and they will find them of the first practical value.

Chitty's Law of Contracts, however useful to the lawyer who is seeking cases to elucidate a point, is clumsy and inelegant, and full of the mere detail of cases. Mr. Addison's Law of Contracts is comprehensive and philosophical, and is an admirable book in many points of view, but until Mr. Smith's Lectures were printed a student's text book on this branch of law was a desideratum. Mr. Smith, Mr. Symons, and Mr. Rawle have fully and satisfactorily supplied this want, and within the small compass of this volume all the principles and most of the cases, English and American, will be found.

Reports of Cases argued and determined in the High Court of Errors and Appeals for the State of Mississippi, volume 23, by John F. Cushman, Reporter to the State and Counsellor at Law. Volume 1, containing January Term and November Term, 1851, and January Term 1852. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1853.

This volume contains an unusual number of good cases. The Reporter's duty has been well and carefully executed; the points made by counsel and the authorities to sustain them, as well as the syllabuses of the cases (at all times a difficult task for one who is not fully conversant with a case,) have been generally stated with care, judgment and accuracy, which is all that can be expected from a reporter. The indexes are so arranged that not only the subject matter decided is indicated, but the very point itself is condensed and digested under an appropriate head easy of reference. Perhaps a professional man cannot judge very well of the Reports

of any State but his own from his want of local knowledge, but this volume contrasts most favorably with some specimens of book making endorsed "Reports," which are annually inflicted on the profession, sometimes "in single spies," but now and then "in battalions."

The Jurisdiction and Powers of the United States Courts and the Rules of Practice in the same, with notes and references by Stephen D. Law, Counsellor of the Supreme Court of the United State. Little & Company, Albany, 1852, pp. 845.

This book is well arranged and well executed, and must needs prove a useful one to the profession, and relieve the many difficulties experienced in arriving at a knowledge of the practice in the Courts of the United States. It is evident that labor and care have been bestowed in its preparation, and that the compilation has been a work of time and study. It may not be improper to add, that it has received the sanction of most of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, and many of the District Court Judges.

Commentaries on the Laws of England, in four books, with an analysis of the work, by Sir William Blackstone, Knt., one of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas, with the last corrections of the author, and Notes from the twenty-first London edition, with copious Notes explaining the changes in the law effected by decision, or statute down to 1844. Vol. 1 by J. F. Hargrave, of Lincoln's Inn; Vol. 2 by G. Sweet, of the Inner Temple; Vol. 3 by R. Couch, of the Middle Temple; Vol. 4 by W. N. Welsby, Recorder of Chester, together with Notes adapting the work to the American student, by John L. Wendell, late State Reporter of New York. New York: Harper & Brothers, Publishers. 1852.

This is, without question, now the most complete edition of Blackstone ever offered to the profession. In 1793, Mr. Christian edited and published the twelfth edition, and this, and the succeeding three editions by him, are among the best. In 1823, Mr. Justice Coleridge edited our author, and his edition is much commended by the profession. But, for fulness of annotation and citation of authority, the edition now before us is certainly superior to all its predecessors. It may be a question how far it is desirable to stuff an elementary book with numerous notes, but it is certain that the professional taste, or the devices of the booksellers, have settled the matter, and he, who should now venture to publish a legal classic in its original simplicity, would be a bold man.

The particular duties of Mr. Wendell seem to be performed in a satis-